

question, and I'm glad I did—I asked him, 'What do the Jaycees do?' He said, 'Well, they help people.'"

That convinced Bales to attend a meeting, and he was soon taken under the wings of the older men. They watched over Bales and encouraged him.

"They gave me an application to fill out, and all of a sudden I was chairman of the Empty Pantry Fund," Bales said with a laugh. "That was in 1954. I think they found out they had a turkey to take over that project, and I was the one! Those were a bunch of good, nice businesspeople that I needed."

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Max Crotser, publisher of The Daily Times, said words can't explain Paul Bales.

He's probably the most wonderful person I've ever known," Crotser said, then related a story that happened several years ago in the dead of winter. "Paul and I were in the car going someplace and saw a man walking down the road with no coat. He was cold, and Paul stopped and bought him a warm coat. He went back and gave the man the coat, and the man went on his way. But that's Paul. He would do anything for a person in need."

Crotser attributes the wide community support for the Empty Pantry Fund to Bales.

"Because of the trust people have in Paul Bales, the Empty Pantry Fund is one of the most successful charities around," he said.

Daily Times Editor Dean Stone has known Bales for a long time: Stone has been with The Daily Times for 62 years and Bales for about 55, he said. Stone also mentioned how valuable Bales has been to the Empty Pantry Fund, which began as a project of the Maryville/Alcoa Jaycees and The Daily Times in 1952.

"We went from that first year having about 120 homes, and now we have over 1,400 a year," Stone said via telephone from his room at Blount Memorial Hospital, where he is recovering from surgery.

He said Bales' reputation is not limited to Blount County. A Louisiana couple has supported the project for several years, and this year, an anonymous donation from a visitor from California was made to the Empty Pantry Fund.

"He said he had been around town and asked everybody he saw what was the best, most worthwhile charity he could give to, and every answer he got was 'Empty Pantry Fund,'" Stone said.

'PURE DETERMINATION'

Larry Aldridge, executive editor at The Daily Times, said he is most impressed with Bales' dedication to the community.

"Since I've been here he's probably been responsible for more community service projects in Blount County than anyone I know," Aldridge said. "I worked with him on several projects, including the new Blount County Library. I have always admired his pure determination to find a way whenever there's a need."

Evelyn Sandlin, advertising director, said she had heard of Bales throughout her career and was pleased to work with someone of his experience and dedication.

"It will be sad and exciting, and I will be calling him," she said of Bales' retirement. "We'll all miss him, not just for his work, but his fun."

Crotser described Bales as a great guy and a great employee.

"There are very few people in this world like Paul Bales," he said. "I have the utmost respect for him and wish him all the best in his retirement. We're going to miss him, but we won't let him go away."

Bales is planning to spend time traveling with his wife, Anita, and visiting his son and

daughter-in-law, Brian and Bridget Bales, who now live in Scottsdale, Ariz., with their daughters, Brooke and Brittany. Bales will continue to be involved in community projects, especially the Empty Pantry Fund.

"I've always been involved knee-deep and overhead in doing for others and I'll continue that forever," Bales said. "There are always people to be helped, and I want to be right in the middle of it."

JEWISH CEMETERY IN IOANNINA

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to some extraordinary news from Ioannina, Greece. Last month, a group of citizens called the Citizens Initiative for the Defense of the Jewish Cemetery of Ioannina held a public rally against anti-Semitism, bringing Jews and Christians together to combat racism and hatred.

The Jewish cemetery of Ioannina, which was vandalized four times in 2009, is a cultural monument of one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world—dating back almost 3,000 years to the time of the Babylonian exile. The Jewish community of Ioannina believes the cemetery vandals are members of a neo-Nazi group.

Therefore, the Citizens Initiative came together—Jews and Christians alike—to create "a human chain against racism" surrounding the cemetery, showing support for the Jewish community and demonstrating their outrage at the recent desecrations. Additionally, a public exhibition highlighted the historic Jewish community there and the cemetery's significance in that history.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the good citizens of Ioannina who organized and participated in this remarkable event. I hope their good will and unity will compel the political leaders of Ioannina to act against the vandals in their city. This kind of citizen action should also serve as a beacon to people everywhere who seek to put an end to racism and anti-Semitism: it proves Margaret Mead's theory yet again that "a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI DURING ITS 206TH ANNI- VERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first Black republic in the New World, as it celebrates its 206th anniversary as a nation, and for serving as an inspiration to all who support democracy.

On January 1, 1804, General Jean-Jacques Dessalines, leader of the Haitian Revolution and the first ruler of an independent Haiti (Ayiti), declared Haiti's independence after years of war against the French colonizers. This historical rebellion, in which an army of

former slaves defeated one of the world's greatest powers, was the only successful slave revolt in the New World and a clear example of the human race's universal thirst for freedom.

Haiti's legacy of courage and triumph over oppression led indirectly to America's western expansion. The defeat of the French Napoleon Army by the Haitians, albeit indirectly, helped America expand its territories towards the West with the Louisiana Purchase. The loss of its most profitable colony forced France to sell others, including what was then called Louisiana, which represents around 23 percent of United States territory today.

As we take this time to honor the second free nation in the history of the Western Hemisphere, second only to the United States, let us recommit our friendship and support to the people of Haiti as it moves toward economic and political stability. Although problems remain, Haiti is on target to recapture its legacy of resilience and valor. It is this same valor that was used when supporting the United States with additional troops during the American Revolution and we thank them for their support and sacrifice.

This past year, Haiti has received unprecedented diplomatic attention which has resulted in political stability, economic growth, greater access to education, and success in the fight against the AIDS/HIV epidemic in the country. These reports bring a sense of pride to all those who know Haiti's history and its significance to all freedom-loving people.

We call to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding direction of President René Préal and Haiti's diplomatic representatives, Ambassador Raymond Joseph and Consul General Felix Augustin. I thank them for their leadership and service to the country of Haiti, even during the most challenging of times. They are champions of democracy, and I salute them for their dedication to fulfilling Haiti's legacy. I would also like to recognize former President Bill Clinton in his capacity as United Nations special envoy to Haiti, for rallying new international and corporate support.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues in joining me to celebrate Haiti's independence and committing ourselves to supporting them in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 6, 7, and 8.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 6, congratulating the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine for its 150 years of commitment to advancing science and improving health, No. 7, congratulating the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I national championship, and No. 8, commending the University of Virginia men's soccer team for winning the 2009 Division I NCAA National Championship.